

Message Text

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43

ACTION DLOS-04

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 EUR-12 NEA-10 IO-11 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00

USIE-00 INRE-00 ACDA-05 AGR-05 AID-05 CEA-01 CEQ-01

CG-00 CIAE-00 CIEP-01 OFA-01 COME-00 DODE-00 DOTE-00

EB-07 EPA-01 ERDA-05 FEAE-00 FMC-01 TRSE-00 H-02

INR-07 INT-05 JUSE-00 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 NSF-01

OES-03 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-04 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 SAL-01

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FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6305

INFO USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

AMCONSUL CASABLANCA

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

AMCONSUL OPORTO

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMCONSUL PONTA DELGADA

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY RABAT

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

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AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

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FOR EMBASSY CAPE TOWN

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CASABLANCA AND COPENHAGEN FOR FISHERIES ATTACHES

3.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PLOS, EFIS, PO

SUBJ: GOP OFFICIAL VIEWS LOS AND FISHERIES

REF: (A) STATE 54588 (B) LISBON 1347 (NOTAL)

SUMMARY: GOP SECRETARY OF STATE FOR FISHERIES STATED PORTUGAL WOULD RELUCTANTLY ADOPT 200-MILE LIMIT IN ORDER TO DEFEND ITS INTERESTS. GOP WILL, HOWEVER, SEEK CONSENSUS AT UPCOMING LOS CONFERENCE. PARTICULAR PORTUGUESE CONCERNS ARE CONTROL OF MARINE POLLUTION AND PROTECTION OF PORTUGUESE PRIVILEGES IN TRADITIONAL FISHING AREAS. NEGOTIATIONS ARE UNDERWAY WITH CANADA AND MAURITANIA TO MAINTAIN FISHING RIGHTS IN THEIR WATERS; PORTUGUESE FLEET CONTINUES FISHING OFF COAST OF SOUTHWEST AFRICA AND ANGOLA. GOP WOULD WELCOME COOPERATIVE RESEARCH EFFORTS IN ORDER TO UTILIZE SOPHISTICATED RESEARCH VESSEL IT IS EQUIPPING. EMBASSY OFFICIALS WILL MEET MARCH 12 WITH HEAD OF PORTUGUESE LOS DELEGATION. END SUMMARY.

1. ECONOMIC COUNSELOR COVERED ESSENTIALS OF REFTEL (A) IN MARCH 9 MEETING WITH SECRETARY OF STATE FOR FISHERIES, PEDRO DE CAMPOS COELHO. DURING SUBSEQUENT DISCUSSION, COELHO MADE FOLLOWING MAIN POINTS:

A. LOS: GOP, WHICH CONCURS ON IMPORTANCE OF OBTAINING AN AGREEMENT, IS SEEKING FORMULA COMPATIBLE WITH INTERNATIONAL CONSENSUS. GOP BELIEVES AGREEMENT MUST BE ENFORCED BY JUDICIAL AUTHORITY WITH "CIERCIVE" POWERS. WHILE NOT ENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT ADOPTION OF 200-MILE LIMIT, GOP RECOGNIZES THAT TREND IS IN THAT DIRECTION. IT IS CONCERNED ABOUT PRESERVING PRIVILEGES IN TRADITIONAL FISHING GROUNDS--WHERE "PORTUGAL IS THE OLDEST FISHING NATION." ANOTHER SUBJECT OF PARTICULAR CONCERN IS CONTROL OF MARINE POLLUTION WHICH COULD JEOPARDIZE TOURISM AND FISHING INTERESTS OF CONTINENTAL PORTUGAL. PROBLEM IS PARTICULARLY ACUTE IN AZORES, WHOSE DEEP SURROUNDING WATERS ARE BEING USED AS DUMPING AREA.

B. LOS DELEGATION: DR. MARIO RUIVO, CURRENTLY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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DIRECTOR-GENERAL FOR SCIENTIFIC INVESTIGATION OF FISHERIES, WILL HEAD PORTUGUESE DELEGATION. (NOTE: BIO COMMENTS ON RUIVO FOLLOW IN SEPTEL.) CORLHO, A SOCIALIST, PLANS TO ATTEND CONFERENCE FOR A FEW DAYS, BUT HIS SCHEDULE DEPENDS ON APRIL 25 ELECTION CAMPAIGN, IN WHICH HE IS A CANDIDATE.

C. TRADITIONAL FISHING AREAS:

(1) CANADA: PORTUGUESE DELEGATION HAS GONE TO CANADA TO DISCUSS FISHING PRIVILEGES IN TRADITIONALLY IMPORTANT WATERS OF NOVA SCOTIA AND GRAND BANKS. GOP IS CONCERNED ABOUT RECENT INROADS BY OTHERS, E.G. CUBANS USING ADVANCED TECHNIQUES.

(2) MAURITANIA: NEGOTIATIONS INDICATE THAT PORTUGAL WILL MAINTAIN ITS FISHING RIGHTS, ALTHOUGH UNDER MORE "ONEROUS" CONDITIONS. HE EMPHASIZED IMPORTANCE OF MAURITANIAN WATERS IN PROVIDING EMPLOYMENT FOR 20 VESSELS WHICH OTHERWISE WOULD HAVE NOWHERE TO FISH. COELHO REFERRED TO UNCERTAIN STATUS OF WATERS OFF FORMER SPANISH SAHARA. HE ALSO SAID THAT A THIRD (UNNAMED) COUNTRY MIGHT TRY TO CAUSE PROBLEMS FOR PORTUGAL IN THIS AREA; IF IT DOES, IT WOULD NOT BE ALLOWED TO DO ANYTHING IN PORTUGAL.

(3) SOUTHERN AFRICA: PORTUGUESE ARE NOT FISHING EXTENSIVELY IN MOZAMBIQUAN WATERS. MAIN FISHING BASE IS WALVIS BAY, AND MAIN FISHING GROUNDS OFF SOUTHWEST AFRICA AND, TO A LESSER EXTENT, ANGOLA. OPERATIONS OFF ANGOLA WERE GREATLY HAMPERED FOR ABOUT SIX MONTHS, BUT ARE NOW RECOVERING.

(4) FOREIGN ASSISTANCE: NORWAY IS ONLY COUNTRY WHICH HAS PROVIDED CONCRETE ASSISTANCE IN FISHING. ITS HELP IS PARTICULARLY VALUABLE IN TECHNICAL EXPERTISE. HOWEVER, FISHING RESEARCH VESSEL WHICH NORWAY EQUIPPING FOR PORTUGAL--THE "MESTRE COSTEIRO"--IS FAR TOO SOPHISTICATED FOR PORTUGUESE NEEDS ("A ROLL'S ROYCE FOR A SHANTY TOWN") AND TOO EXPENSIVE TO OPERATE. IN VIEW OF \$3.6 MILLION ALREADY INVESTED, GOP RELUCTANTLY APPROVED SPENDING FURTHER \$1.6 MILLION TO COMPLETE SHIP. VESSEL WILL BE OPERATED BY NAVY; COELHO WOULD LIKE TO SPREAD COST BURDEN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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BY HAVING VESSEL UTILIZED FOR OCEANOGRAPHIC OR OTHER RESEARCH BY OTHER PORTUGUESE OR FOREIGN ENTITIES. DESPITE PRESS NOTICES, RUSSIANS HAVE PROVIDED NO FISHING ASSISTANCE.

2. IN MARCH 8 SPEECH BEFORE OPENING SESSION OF LISBON MEETING OF FAO COMMITTEE ON DEVELOPMENT OF COOPERATION WITH INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION CONCERNED WITH FISHERIES, COELHO SAID THAT ESTABLISHMENT OF SYSTEM OF 200-MILE ECONOMIC ZONES WOULD REPRESENT SACRIFICE FOR PORTUGAL, BUT WOULD BE CONSISTENT WITH GOP POLICY OF SOLIDARITY WITH LDC'S. HE ALSO RESERVED PORTUGAL'S RIGHT TO ADOPT 200-MILE ZONE IN RETALIATION FOR UNILATERAL ADOPTION BY OTHER COUNTRIES.

3. COMMENT:

A. SECRETARY COELHO CLEARLY INDICATED THAT PORTUGAL, WHEN ITS ADOPTS FINAL DECISION ON 200 MILES, WILL LIMIT ITS TERRITORIAL SEA CLAIM TO 12 MILES AND WILL DECLARE THE REMAINDER AN ECONOMIC ZONE.

B. PORTUGUESE NAVAL STAFF, WHICH APPEARS TO HAVE LITTLE INTEREST IN "MESTRE COSTEIRO," TOLD NAVATT THAT SHIP WILL BE OPERATED AS PART OF MERCHANT MARINE. NAVY ALREADY POSSESSES LITTLE-USED OCEANOGRAPHIC RESEARCH VESSEL WHICH WE LOANED THEM IN 1972.

USG RESEARCH AGENCIES MAY WISH TO CONSIDER JOINT RESEARCH PROJECTS WITH PORTUGAL. BESIDES RESEARCH BENEFITS, IT WOULD PROVIDE EXCELLENT OPPORTUNITY TO PRESENT U.S. VIEWS AND TO STRENGTHEN TIES.

C. MEETING BETWEEN EMBASSY OFFICERS AND TUIVO HAS BEEN TANTATIVELY SCHEDULED FOR FRIDAY, MARCH 12--I.E., JUST BEFORE LATTER'S DEPARTURE FOR NEW YORK. EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE RECEIVING BY THEN ANY OTHER POINTS OR INFORMATION WHICH DEPARTMENT WISHES TO PRESENT AT THAT TIME.
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